

# Church

## Rev. A.J. Thompson is a man of great wisdom and foresight

By Louise H. Jordan  
SENTINEL Church Reporter

Rev. A.J. Thompson is a man well versed in the scriptures. The Pastor of Victory Baptist Church, 1305 North E Street, has been through many trials and tribulations, but, knows surely that all of these things come to make him strong.

He was born in Rayville, Louisiana in August 1924 to Wash and Hattie Thompson. Rev. Thompson is now a very young sixty years of age. The seventh of 14 children one can only know that life has not always been easy.

Appearing outwardly extroverted, Rev. Thompson is invariably quite shy as he was from childhood.

Young Abner James went to the 7th grade before dropping out of school. He later joined the Army and became a non-commissioned officer. He served in the 12th Army Division under General Ike Eisenhower and General Patton.

Rev. Thompson moved to Las Vegas in 1958 with his

wife and three children. He recalls that his first night was spent in a car, for like Jesus he had nowhere to call home. His life began to prosper and he became an Assistant Minister at the Bethel Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. J.G. Gilmore. He later was called to pastor the Evergreen Baptist Church until his resignation.

In the Summer of 1960, Rev. Thompson and 31 original members organized



Rev. A.J. Thompson

the Victory Baptist Church. For nearly 25 years, the church has existed in several buildings. In March of 1985, Rev. Thompson and his congregation moved into a beautiful edifice located on

the "E" Street site. Relating to the building, Rev. Thompson relates that the construction was a vision in 1960. It was built not without problems and sometimes total disgust but never defeat.

Rev. Thompson developed his philosophy in the ministry from a famous surgeon who

contributed his success to diagnosing a case, being assured in his heart and experience that it was the truth of the case, and going into the operating room with an attitude that he would rather die than lose a patient . . . so his determination in the preaching of the gospel. He would rather die than fail the

lord. Therefore before he preaches any sermon, he must ask and answer, in study, five questions: what, where, when, to whom and why it was said. When he can answer these he is ready to preach.

When explaining what makes him saddest, he replied that people who do

not understand, and do not appear to want to understand the ways of God through his word is the source of great sadness. Likewise, happy is he when he teaches the word and others learn and change to a life of holiness.

The father of six children in his natural life, is a spiritual father of a multitude. He looks forward to the day when the Lord God Almighty will say to him "Well done." Then will his coined phrase, "God said it, I believe, that settles it," really come home to him.

### Centel offers repair service

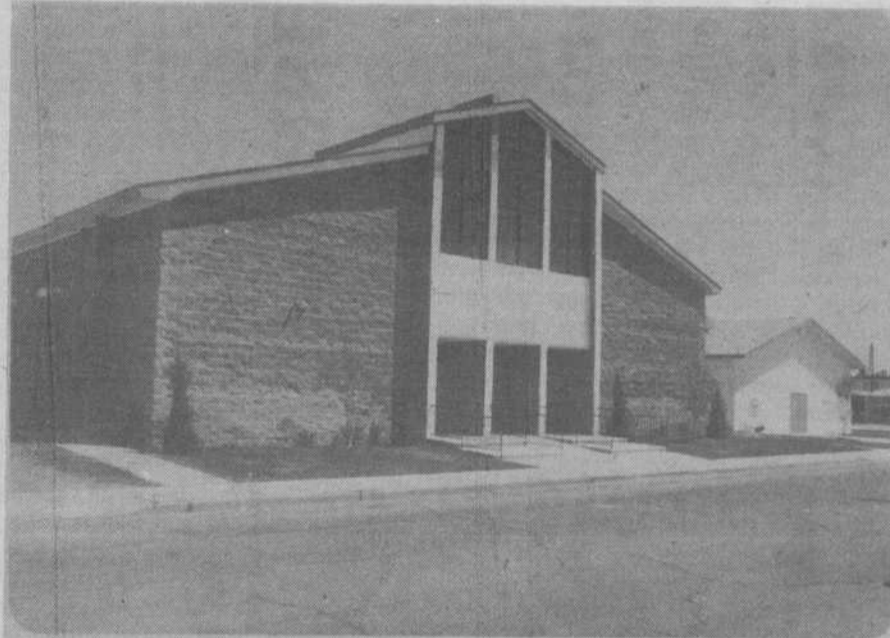
Under a voluntary program effective Mar. 18, Centel will repair its customers' telephone jacks and wiring.

For a \$1.50 a month fee, Centel officials will repair problems that result from faulty jacks or wires in premises of residential or single-business customers.

"We think the plan will take the blow out of one-time repair charges," said Centel spokesman Sal Cinquegrani. "It will make it easier for some people."

Centel now charges a \$25 service call fee and applicable repair charges to visit a customer's home.

Information about the repair insurance will be mailed with upcoming telephone bills.



Victory Baptist Church

## MOST BEAUTIFUL HOMES TO BE JUDGED IN WEST LAS VEGAS

By H.P. "Fitz" Fitzgerald

The Westside Community Development Commission, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Beautification Committee, and the "Keep America Beautiful" local Commission will send a team of judges throughout the Old West Side and Vegas Heights the week of May 13 to judge the most beautiful homes, business and churches for the Westside Community Development's Eighth Annual Gold Shovel Awards Program.

The Old West Side is bounded by West Bonanza Road on the south, I-15 on the east, West Owens Avenue on the North, and North Highland Drive on the west. The program is open to homes, businesses and churches in Vegas Heights also.

The U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development

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(HUD) has spent several million dollars in the Old West Side and Vegas Heights during the past several years to make these areas of the community more attractive and viable. The Westside Community Development Commission's team of workers have refurbished more than 1000 homes in the two areas between 1977 and 1985.

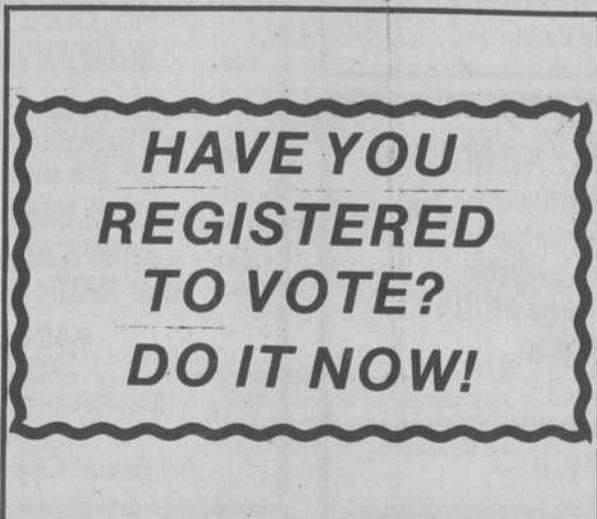
The 1985 Gold Shovel Awards Ceremony is scheduled to be held Friday, May 24 at 10:00 a.m. at the New Bethel Baptist Church located at 400 West Adams Avenue. Mayor William Briar of Las Vegas has proclaimed May, 1985 as Home Beautification Month in West Las Vegas.

Homeowners, businesses and churches that would like

to participate in this year's Beautification Program should call the West Side Community Development Commission's office at 647-2177, Monday through Friday, between 12 noon and 4:00 p.m.

### Church Announcements

Churches are urged to send their services and program announcements, typewritten, to the Las Vegas Sentinel Church Reporter Louise Jordan, c/o Lil Angel Pre-School Plus, 1230 W. Adams, Las Vegas, NV. 89106, or to her in care of The Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice, 1201 S. Eastern Ave., Las Vegas, NV. 89104. Articles must be mailed or delivered to the above locations no later than Monday noon of each week. Approved announcements will be printed as near as possible to the scheduled date of the activity.



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